

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) An electronic document answering machine comprising:
~~an interconnected a central processing unit (CPU), memory and modem~~ communicatively coupled with a telephone connection communication medium;

a system for rendering documents;

an alert device for signaling that at least one new document is waiting to be reviewed;

an input device to signal rendering of ~~at least one of~~ the at least one new document; and

a digital port for connecting to a host personal computer (PC),

wherein the electronic document answering machine periodically connects to at least one remote source, receives and stores at least one digital document in the memory, and activates the alert device as a new document is stored, and

wherein, in response to the input device receiving an input, the electronic document answering machine renders stored documents, and

wherein the electronic document answering machine is adapted to transmit the stored documents to the PC for processing.

18. (Currently Amended) The electronic document answering machine of claim 17, wherein the system for rendering stored documents comprises a speaker and a voice synthesis apparatus.

19. (Currently Amended) The electronic document answering machine of claim 17, wherein the system for rendering stored documents comprises a display apparatus.

20. (Currently Amended) The electronic document answering machine of claim 17, wherein the electronic document answering machine is adapted for use by the PC as a modem.

21. (Currently Amended) The electronic document answering machine of claim 17, wherein the modem is operated by the CPU and has no separate CPU.

22. (Currently Amended) The electronic document answering machine ~~as in~~ of claim 17, wherein the at least one remote source includes an Internet mail server, ~~[[and]]~~ and the at least one new document includes at least one e-mail message addressed to a particular user.

23. (Currently Amended) The electronic document answering machine of claim 17, wherein the alert device includes at least one light emitting diode (LED) and the input device is a first pushbutton having the at least one LED integrated in the pushbutton.

24. (Currently Amended) The electronic document answering machine of claim 23, further comprising: a second pushbutton adapted for applying and removing power to one or more power-using elements.

25. (Currently Amended) An electronic document answering system in a personal computer (PC), the electronic document answering system comprising:

a retriever means for retrieving, wherein the means for retrieving is configured for periodically accessing remote sources and retrieving and storing digital documents;

a light-emitting diode (LED)-alert apparatus means for providing a light emitting diode (LED) alert, wherein the means for providing a light emitting diode alert is configured for LED illumination for signaling that one or more new digital documents have been retrieved and stored and are ready for review; and

an initializing input pushbutton having the LED alert apparatus means for initializing, wherein the means for initializing includes the means for providing an LED alert integrated in the pushbutton means for initializing [[to]] for signaling the electronic document answering system to initiate review of the stored digital documents[;];

wherein the electronic document answering system in the PC is adapted to operate using means for processing and means for storage CPU and memory elements of operably coupled with the PC, and

wherein the means for storage includes [[with]] special operating code provided for the ~~electronic document answering system~~, ~~[[and]] for the electronic document answering system~~ to operate during periods of time ~~when~~ the PC is in reduced-power ~~power mode~~ as well as when the PC is in full operating mode.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 25, wherein the digital documents include e-mail.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 25, wherein the ~~LED alert apparatus~~ means for providing an LED alert and the ~~pushbutton~~ means for initializing are in a ~~keyboard~~ means for receiving input in communication with the PC .

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 27, wherein the ~~LED alert apparatus~~ means for providing an LED alert is an LED in a standard keyboard, wherein the means for providing an LED alert is adapted to serve as ~~[[the]] an~~ alert apparatus, and the ~~input apparatus is a means for entering input~~ is a standard key on the ~~keyboard~~ means for receiving input, wherein the means for entering input is adapted to serve as the ~~pushbutton~~ means for initializing.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A computing device, comprising:

a memory for storing electronic documents having a delivery address;

at least one processor configured to access the electronic documents in the memory and periodically interface to at least one network store of electronic documents to receive a new set of electronic documents having the delivery address and to store the new set of electronic documents in the memory;

an alert device that renders ~~at least one of audio or~~ video indicating receipt of the new set of electronic documents; and

an input device to request rendering of the electronic documents of the new set of electronic documents, and wherein the electronic documents stored in the memory are transferable to another computing device for processing, wherein the computing device is

communicatively coupled to a television and the alert device renders the video indicating receipt of the new set of electronic documents and the television displays the rendered video.

31. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

periodically receiving new electronic documents having an associated delivery address from at least one remote network store;

storing the new electronic documents in a memory for electronic documents having the delivery address;

automatically rendering at least one of an audio notification or visual indication that the new electronic documents are received;

receiving a request to render the new electronic documents; and

upon request, transferring an electronic document stored in the memory to another computing device for further processing.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the transferring includes transferring to another computing device for display by said another computing device.

33. (Currently Amended) A computing device, comprising:

a retriever that periodically accesses remote sources and retrieves and stores in memory at least one new digital document addressed to an addressee, wherein the at least one new digital document [[that]] is not already stored in memory of the computing device; and

an input device having at least one light emitting diode (LED) integrated in the input device, wherein the at least one LED signals that the at least one new digital document is stored in memory and ready for review, and wherein activation of the input device initiates rendering of the at least one new digital document.

34. (Currently Amended) The computing device of claim 33, wherein the retriever is adapted to operate using at least one processor of the computing device and memory elements of the computing device with special operating code provided for the computing device.

35. (Previously Presented) The computing device of claim 34, wherein the retriever and the input device are adapted to operate during periods of time in which the computing device is in a reduced-power state.

36. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

periodically accessing at least one remote source of electronically addressable digital documents addressed to an addressee;

based on the accessing, receiving and storing in memory at least one new digital document addressed to the addressee;

signaling by at least one light emitting diode (LED) that the at least one new digital document is stored in memory; and

upon activation of an input device in which the at least one LED is integrated, rendering the at least one new digital document.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, wherein the rendering includes rendering the at least one new digital document ~~one-at-a-time~~ during a time period over which no other new digital document is rendered.